



Creating Opportunity in Higher Education



WASHINGTON

STATE

HIGHER

EDUCATION

COORDINATING

BOARD

Higher Education Coordinating Board Overview

Background

Created by the Legislature in 1985, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) was formally established in January 1986 as the successor to the Council for Postsecondary Education. Appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, its nine citizen members serve four-year terms, with the exception of the board chairman, who serves at the pleasure of the governor. The agency's executive director serves at the pleasure of the Board.

Overview

The HECB is charged by state law with representing the "broad public interest above the interests of the individual colleges and universities." It provides planning, coordination, monitoring, and policy analysis for higher education in the state of Washington. Specifically, as outlined in the law, it is responsible for the following:

- administering state-funded financial aid and other direct service programs;
- preparing a comprehensive master plan every four years;
- providing policy and planning for the Legislature and governor; and
- performing some authorization and oversight.

Direct Student Services

State Financial Aid

The HECB oversees all state financial aid programs and distributes direct assistance to more than 60,000 students who attend Washington public and independent colleges and universities. The Board's student aid programs include: State Need Grant, State Work Study, Educational Opportunity Grant, Washington Promise Scholarship, Health Professional Loan Repayment and Scholarship, Washington Scholars, Washington Award for Vocational Excellence, American Indian Endowed Scholarship, Future Teachers, and Community Scholarship Organization Matching Grants.

Guaranteed Education Tuition

Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET), the state's prepaid college tuition program, is helping more than 9,000 Washington families save for college. Created by the Legislature in 1998, the program allows families to buy tuition units at a price based on today's tuition at state public colleges and universities.

917 Lakeridge Way SW
P.O. Box 43430
Olympia, WA 98504-3430
Phone: (360) 753-7800
Fax: (360) 753-7808
Email: info@hecb.wa.gov
www.hecb.wa.gov

GEAR UP

The Washington State GEAR UP program is helping more low-income, disadvantaged students go on to college. Its Scholars Project provides direct, year-round service to 1,200 at-risk students in grades 7 through 12 from low-income communities around the state. Another 5,000 at-risk students will participate in early outreach activities. GEAR UP stands for “Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs.”

Displaced Homemaker

People who’ve been out of the paid workforce for more than 10 years and now need to support either their families or themselves receive intensive career counseling, job search assistance, and other help. In 1997-99, the program helped more than 1,600 people to become self-sufficient.

Master Plan for Higher Education

Every four years, as required by state law, the HECB prepares a strategic plan for higher education, which includes an assessment of the state’s higher education needs and recommendations on how to meet them.

The key message of the 1996 Master Plan was that the state would experience a significant increase in the demand for higher education through 2010. The 2000 Master Plan reinforces that message and introduces new strategies for renewing the state’s commitment to higher education opportunity. The Legislature approved the 2000 Master Plan, but directed the HECB to reexamine some of its enrollment and capital needs assumptions.

Policy and Budget

Budget Review and Recommendations

The HECB prepares capital and operating budget guidelines for use by public colleges and universities, reviews the budget proposals of public colleges and universities, and recommends priorities to the Legislature and the governor.

Policies and Programs

The Board conducts studies and makes recommendations to the Legislature and governor on state higher education policy. Study topics include state financial aid programs, faculty salary peer review, gender equity, national comparison of tuition and fee rates, diversity, distance education, competency-based admissions, and accountability.

In addition, the Board participates in branch campus land acquisition/planning, and coordination of the statewide K-20 education telecommunications network. Recently, it has supervised the allocation of high-demand enrollments and administered the following grants: information technology instruction, fund for innovation, master of education reimbursement, and child-care.

Evaluation and Authorization

The Board is required by state law to approve new academic degree programs offered by the state’s public four-year schools, and to review and evaluate existing degree programs. In addition, it reviews the quality of programs for veterans and authorizes programs proposed by out-of-state institutions that would like to offer instruction in Washington State.